
Kellogg & Wardner

Fuels Assessment

Areas within the one mile of home sites:

Located at the base of the Silver Mountain Ski area, Kellogg has excellent access to the Interstate. The community is concentrated on both sides of I-90 and up the slopes to the south in the area of Wardner. Other home sites are scattered up gulches in this region where access and forest fuels are a concern, but will be addressed individually. North of Kellogg, the hill slopes still carry



the verification of wildfires in the region as tree establishment and growth are slowed. South of Kellogg, young trees (mainly western white pine) less than 30 feet tall dominate the scenery. Fire behavior fuel model 1 is represented in this area.

To the east, Montgomery Creek has a couple dozen homes located on either side of the river. The west side of the gulch is dominated by brush fields with scattered ponderosa pine trees while the east side of the gulch has young trees and little underbrush. Access is provided by the interstate to the south and by a forest access road 2.3 miles north of the interstate that leads into National Forest lands and access to Prichard and other points. Further to the east, north of I-90, Moon creek is similar to Montgomery Creek, with the exception that the escape route to the north has been blocked by a US Forest Service closed road.

Areas within 3 miles of the community center, but outside the one mile home zone:

Beyond the immediate zone of homes in this area, the ridge tops support a variety of forest types with moderate risk factors for wildfire. The management of these areas are addressed in the county-wide recommendations for landowners and land managers.

Community Risk Assessment

Kellogg had a population of 2,591 in 2000 according to the US census, earning it the distinction as the largest community in the county. This community's structures are concentrated near the downtown area which is located on either side of Interstate 90. The community of Wardner is combined with Kellogg for this analysis. There are in the neighborhood of 1,028 structures within 2 miles of the community center (excluding those near Smelterville). The downtown area is not considered to be at-risk to wildfire loss. The areas surrounding Kellogg are not at high-risk to wildfire loss either, due to past wildfire history, and environmental complications related to mining in the region.



The structures located beyond 0.5 miles from the city center are at low to moderate risk to wildfire risk in the future. These are the structures located along the perimeter of the community, in the drainages, and in the surrounding forests. There are approximately 475 structures in this low to moderate risk zone. These structures are not at the same degree of risk as many of the other

homes in the moderate "at-risk" zone in the county. These structures should be re-evaluated in 10 years to determine where wildfire risk factors have changed.

This entire area has rural fire protection provided by Shoshone County Fire District 2 with a station in Kellogg. Wildland fire protection is provided by the Idaho Department of Lands in Cataldo.

South of Wardner, Milo Creek is tapped to provide domestic water supplies for the communities down stream. The forests in this drainage are young, healthy, and at only a slight to moderate risk to wildfire. However, just as the forests surrounding this community should be re-evaluated in 10 years, so should the health of this valley. Because it provides a domestic water supply, Milo Creek fire risk should be monitored.

Multiple access routes for the residents of Milo Creek between Wardner and Kellogg is a minor factor at this time because of the minor fire risk rating, however, access through section 12 (T48N R2E) should be improved in the future as this route will be beneficial in the event of an emergency.

Although dual access is provided in the Montgomery Creek drainage, the potential escape route to the north is not marked. It is highly recommended that this route be signposted all the way to Prichard where evacuees can be sent. Home access bridges in this drainage should be evaluated for maximum load ratings, and posted, with load rating kept on record at the



Shoshone County Fire District 2 office and the IDL Cataldo office. From a fire fuels standpoint, the brush fields to the west of the gulch present some degree of risk. However, this brush field is comprised primarily of hardwoods, is east facing, and there are no homes located on the hill slope above it. Live fuel moistures will tend to retard any ignition and subsequent spread rates meaning that a substantial defensible space

around the homes adjacent to this brush field should be adequate to protect homes and property.

The Moon Creek Drainage, east of Montgomery Creek, is similar in forest fuels and conditions. However, the US Forest Service road that would normally provide an escape route to residents, in the case of a fire at the southern end of this drainage, has been



blocked. National Forest Development Road 930, when originally built, provided an escape route to Prichard and other points north from this valley. The US Forest Service is strongly encouraged to re-evaluate this permanent road closure in favor of a solution that would allow its utilization in the event of a life threatening emergency.

The forests surrounding Kellogg should be monitored over the next 10 years as these young western white pine forests mature and under brush thickens. Depending on this rate of change, pruning and the creation of fire breaks along the natural terrain breaks should be implemented in the future. Although it is at a low risk to wildfire currently, this will change over time.

